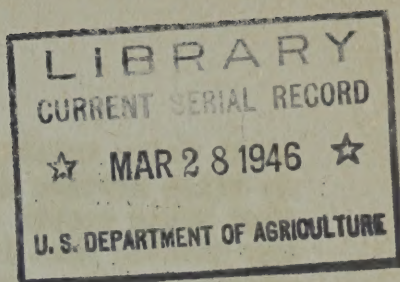


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ADVANCE INFORMATION*

OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY
BY
4-H CLUBS

May 26, 1946



THEME: SERVING AS CITIZENS IN MAINTAINING WORLD PEACE

Foreword

Beyond the Dim Light of Knowledge

Today a world in the grip of famine looks once more to our agriculture to keep millions from starving. The famine emergency emphasizes that no segment of American life has made more revolutionary progress through science and education than our farmers in the production of food. Yet, rural people have an added quality that is equally important . . . a faith that extends beyond the dim light of knowledge.

Those who deal daily with growing and living things, are constantly in touch with the mysteries of life that transcend all human understanding. Surrounded by nature, working with nature, and, to a certain degree, directing nature, leads to a growing appreciation of man's relation to God. Without this appreciation it will be difficult to maintain any semblance of world peace. It is the basis of our constitution and of the institutions of true democracy. It should be given thought by all of us as we go forward to attend Rural Life Sunday services in the church of our choice on May 26.

M. L. Wilson

M. L. Wilson
Director of Extension Work.

This year, the observance of Rural Life Sunday, or 4-H Club Sunday, is of special significance to every 4-H member and leader. Our foreword, "Beyond the Dim Light of Knowledge" by Director M. L. Wilson, is an inspiring keynote message containing a challenge for each of us as we do our own full part in helping to build as well as to maintain world peace. As we study this challenge, citizenship becomes more meaningful in terms of our responsibilities and opportunities. At this time it seems appropriate that recognition be given to what the 4-H Clubs of each community have done and are

* Prepared by Gertrude L. Warren, Organization, 4-H Club Work, Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

still doing relative to the "4-H Food for Famine Relief" program, in helping to bring nurture and understanding and friendship to the starving and ill-clad young people of countries across the seas. Such recognition in sharing may involve what is being done and what can still be done in cultivating and growing gardens and crops, cutting down on wheat and fats, conserving the surplus, collecting commercially-prepared foods, and contributing money for foods to be bought in quantity. May this practical note of Christian sharing as a part of the observance of Rural Life Sunday bring to 4-H participants everywhere a new sense of relationship and responsibility and opportunity in serving as citizens in maintaining world peace.

PARTICIPATION OF 4-H CLUBS IN THE OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY OR 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

WHAT IT DOES

- *Enables 4-H members to think together regarding world events in spiritual terms by means of some especially chosen theme such as "Serving as citizens in maintaining world peace."

- *Develops in 4-H members a better understanding of the inevitable relationships that people of the soil have with God.

- *Develops a deeper appreciation of the manifold values of rural life.

- *Provides 4-H members an opportunity to participate in a service which develops the Heart H.

- *Emphasizes and recognizes the spiritual value and character-building qualities of 4-H Club work.

- *Acquaints 4-H members with other character-building agencies.

- *Gives 4-H members an opportunity to cooperate with other community groups.

- *Encourages 4-H members to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as the church, the school, and other social organizations that lead to the fuller, all-round development of all those who participate.

- *Helps 4-H members to realize their own responsibilities to the church of their choice.

SUGGESTIVE WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH SERVICES BY CLUB MEMBERS

Each county will determine how Rural Life Sunday or 4-H Club Sunday will be observed. This usually is done by the county 4-H club council, by a special committee of leaders and sponsors, or by the county extension agent and home demonstration agent.

Those in charge will contact ministers, priests and Sunday school superintendents and make mutual arrangements for conducting the services that will be satisfactory to all. This should be done well in advance of the Sunday selected for the observance of this special day. The following suggestive procedures are listed for consideration:

Plan county-wide observance of 4-H Club Sunday, if possible.

If May 26 proves inconvenient, select a Sunday in May or June when there is the least conflict with other events.

Make careful plans to suit local conditions.

Explain fully the meaning of 4-H Club Sunday and plans for the day to all local ministers or church officers well in advance.

Furnish information about 4-H Club work to ministers for inclusion in sermon.

Highlight the "4-H Food for Famine Relief Program" in "Serving as Citizens in Maintaining World Peace."

Encourage 4-H members of each church of community to discuss plans for 4-H participation relative to the observance of Rural Life Sunday with minister or priest of the church of their choice.

Make arrangements for a combined service in a central church or hall provided all churches of the community are in the habit of combining for special services.

Enlist the help of 4-H members in decorating the church with plants and flowers.

Have a 4-H Club committee perhaps in uniform if such seems appropriate to welcome people at the door of the church.

Encourage 4-H members to assist in ushering or in taking up the morning offering.

Encourage 4-H members to invite parents, neighbors, and other friends to attend.

If only one church in community and church officials approve, suggest to 4-H members that they might attend church as a group and wear membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.

Other ways of 4-H participation may include singing in the choir; giving talks; reading poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, scriptures; or contributing special musical numbers.

Other forms of observance may include a 4-H sunrise or 4-H sunset service in some scenic setting; a 10 to 15 minute church period given over to the 4-H Club for special contributions of members; a similar

period during the Sunday school hour; or a special service to dedicate the plow. On this occasion, there may be used appropriate hymns - hymns that are great and have done much to develop the spiritual ideals and stamina of this Nation. Young people should be encouraged to become familiar with all such and to appreciate their worth and significance.

PRAYER

"Prayer is the most powerful force in the world today. It lifts the souls of men and quickens their spirits. It builds faith and a fearlessness to do what is believed to be right. It makes men strong. It is the forerunner of miraculous achievement. Without it, no nation can survive."

4-H CLUB PRAYER

Thou Eternal Spirit of Life, the Heavens declare Thy glory and the fields and woods reveal Thy providing care. Thou art our Father.

As the stars in their courses make known Thy power, so do the beauties in flower and bird show the provisions for our pleasures and suggest the values of all created things. We would know how to use and how to protect and conserve these values which are in Thy creation. May Thy purposes not be defeated by our carelessness but rather increased by our appreciation.

We thank Thee for all Thy provisions for human happiness, for the love of home and friends and for all those influences which turn work into pleasure and make of what might have been life's monotonies a bright song. We pray that Thy spirit may govern us in all our activities and all our pleasures and social contacts, and in such manner that we may spend our days in harmony with Thy holy will and our eternal well-being. Help us to feel that all legitimate work is holy, and in it may we constantly come to a clearer understanding and consciousness of the Divine Presence. May we so live that Thy face will always be visible, even as to the pure in heart.

We pray for an ever-increasing understanding of men, women, boys, and girls throughout our war-torn world. May we do our full part unceasingly to bring about a just and lasting peace. *** In all this, may we exercise that power of initiative which can take advantage of situations and conquer difficulties. May we come to understand that the development of this initiative is a sacred duty and that in using it we are working together with Thee. We also pray for that life consciousness which looks beyond the world we now see and beholds our fulfillment in a greater sphere. As we live, in time may we come more and more to feel the sense of eternity and to make our plans accordingly.

In our 4-H Club work, give us the power to be thankful for our many varied experiences. May we rejoice with those who have won recognition and be sharers in the satisfactions that come from doing a worthwhile piece of work. Where there have been disappointments, may they carry with them some lesson which will be of future advantage. If there has been any experience

we should forget, give us the power and grace to cast it from our minds, but let the aroma of the pleasant carry back to our homes and clubs. We pray Thy favor on our associates, on our club leaders, and on our county extension agents, and may they who have given so freely and unselfishly of their time, feel that they have been doing Thy service. As we have freely received, may we be prepared to pass on that which we have gained; to serve our communities as we have been served. May we see Jesus in our everyday contacts and may He become the pattern of our lives. Amen.

-- J. R. Hargreaves.

SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS FOR USE IN OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE
SUNDAY RELATING TO THE THEME "SERVING AS CITIZENS
IN MAINTAINING WORLD PEACE"

"If the world is long to survive, the gigantic power which man has acquired through atom energy, must be matched by spiritual strength of greater magnitude. All mankind now stands in the doorway to destruction--or upon the threshold of the greatest age in history. Only a high moral code can master this new power of the universe, and develop it for the common good."

-- President Harry S. Truman.

"I see no reason, as some people do, to condole with youth over the state of the world into which they are entering to take up their adult responsibilities. Rather I would congratulate our boys and girls on their birthright of citizenship in a great democracy. With that American birthright and citizenship goes the clear obligation to serve mankind. I know our young people are aware of that obligation. I believe they will fulfill it with clear vision and courage."

-- James F. Byrnes.

"Five great enemies of peace inhabit with us--avarice, ambition, envy, anger and pride; if these were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace."

-- Petrarch.

"The focus of the problem of ending war does not lie in the atom; it resides in the hearts of men."

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"The Ten Commandments are the basic law of unerring rule of human conduct to the time of Christ and beyond then to the time of Moses, and in an unwritten form back to the first man, Adam. With the Ten Commandments and their observance come peace in the human heart; come security in the social order; and peace in the society of nations."

-- The Rev. Francis X. Talbot, S. J.

"Two things the world most longs for--peace within ourselves and peace with all our fellowmen. For both kinds of peace, self-discipline and self-control are absolutely essential. Let us then, give ourselves in a special manner to that discipline of self which is one of the foundations of peace."

-- The Most Rev. Lawrence J. Shehan,
D. D.

"To be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars; to be satisfied with your possessions, but not contented with yourself until you have made the best of them; to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice; to be governed by your admiration rather than by your disgusts; to covet nothing that is your neighbor's, except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manners; to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends, and every day of Christ; and to spend as much time as you can with body and spirit in God's out-of-doors. These are little guide-posts on the footpath to peace."

-- Henry Van Dyke.

"There is nothing more exciting in the world than to be conscious of inwardly achieving something new; and anyone who puts into practice the life of Christ on earth, cannot fail to feel the growth in his own mastery over self. Under the Democracy based on such a religious impulse, there would still, of course, be leaders, and there would still be people of initiative interested and prodding other people to attempt the development of new ideas, or to participate in new enjoyments which they had not before understood or experienced.

"Under such a Democracy the living standard of all the people would be gradually rising. That is what the youth of the next generation will be primarily interested in achieving, because that is the vital gain in Democracy for the future, if we base it on the Christian way of life as lived by the Christ."

-- Eleanor Roosevelt.

"The spiritual development of the individual is essential to a full, well-rounded life of service. In this development, the Christian church plays a large part. Through the centuries it has proved a source of strength which has enabled both youth and adults to meet unflinchingly life's problems. It has given hope to those whose feet have faltered. It has helped to renew faith in their ability to serve and to serve well. It has brought to all whose hearts are attuned to the Infinite that inspiration and sense of spiritual unity with one's fellow men that is so essential to any people in times of crisis."

-- M. L. Wilson.

"The story in Genesis, wherein man ate of the fruit of the tree of life and thereby became as one of the Gods knowing good from evil, has meaning for us today. We are studying God's world as never before. We are learning His secrets and laws. We know something of the nature of steam and gas and electricity. Lightning and thunder and the winds and storms are no longer mysterious to us. We speak over the radio and our voice is heard around the world in seconds of time. Through our study of the laws of heredity, crossing and breeding, we have evolved new grains, new fruits, new flowers and vegetables. We are learning the nature of the atom and can destroy whole cities; yes, possibly whole nations in a moment of time. Through partaking of the fruit of the tree of life man is fast learning the very secrets of creation. We are coming into our inheritance as the sons of God. The great question now is whether, with all our knowledge and physical power we can act like gods."

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"To be grown-up morally means just one thing--to act towards each other human being as if he were of infinite worth. This means tolerance of and fair dealing with all others--the young and the old, the crippled and the well-formed, the gifted and the dull, the well and ill-adjusted, and those of our own and those of different races, religions, and social classes. Moral maturity led to the freeing of slaves, better treatment of the insane, delinquents and criminals, better conditions for the working man, the abolishment of child labor, the enfranchisement of the common man, the establishment of child welfare services, the raising of the status of women, and plans for social security. Moral maturity will make for international peace and goodwill and will abolish wars."

-- Dr. S. R. Laycock.

PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Saviour for whose Kingdom it stands, one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Reminders to 4-H Club Members in the
Observance of Rural Life Sunday

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

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The official documents of American history . . . affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation.

-- United States Supreme Court decision.

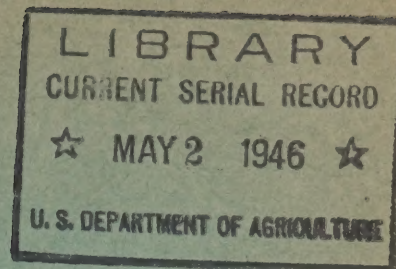
The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed.

-- Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade.

-- Theodore Roosevelt.

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Observance of RURAL LIFE SUNDAY by 4-H Clubs, 1946

THEME

*Serving as
citizens in
maintaining
World Peace*

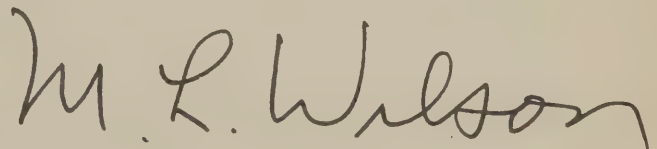


EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES COOPERATING

Beyond the Dim Light of Knowledge

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "M. L. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Director of Extension Work

OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

BY 4-H CLUBS

May 26, 1946

Gertrude L. Warren
Organization, 4-H Club Work

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SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS FOR USE IN OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE
SUNDAY RELATING TO THE THEME "SERVING AS CITIZENS
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"If the world is long to survive, the gigantic power which man has acquired through atom energy, must be matched by spiritual strength of greater magnitude. All mankind now stands in the doorway to destruction-- or upon the threshold of the greatest age in history. Only a high moral code can master this new power of the universe, and develop it for the common good."

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-- Theodore Roosevelt.

The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country.

-- William Howard Taft.

Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually.

-- Woodrow Wilson.

The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions.

-- Calvin Coolidge.

Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization.

-- Herbert Hoover.

